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Via Email and FOIA Online

February 26, 2016

Regional Freedom of Information Officer
U.S. EPA, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street (OPA-2)
San Francisco, CA 94105
r9foia@epa.gov
Hq.foia@epa

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request – Southern California Gas Company
Aliso Canyon Natural Gas Release

Dear Sir/Madam:

On behalf of Climate Change Law Foundation (CCLF), please accept this request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552. CCLF is seeking documents related to the Southern California Gas Company Aliso Canyon Natural Gas Release.

The documents sought by the present request (hereinafter “documents”) include any written, recorded, electronic or graphic material – whether or not prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – that is in the agency’s possession, custody, or control, including forms, maps, memoranda, reports, surveys, models, studies, letters, telegrams, facsimiles, electronic correspondence (including e-mail in any form), “Power Point” presentations, and notes, minutes, and transcripts of conferences, meetings, and telephone or other communications. Specifically, we request:

All documents received by the EPA in response to its December 18, 2015 letter sent to Dennis Arriola, the President and CEO of Southern California Gas Company. EPA sought the information requested in that letter pursuant to Section 114 of the federal Clean Air Act (CAA), 42 U.S.C. § 9614.

CCLF requests a waiver of all fees for this request. Disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in any commercial interest. Under these circumstances, we are entitled to a fee waiver. *See Larson v. CIA*, 843 F.2d 1481 (D.C. Cir. 1988) (fee waiver is proper where information is not sought for commercial purposes, and where disclosure would contribute significantly to understanding of government operations or activities).

In addition, CCLF requests a response within twenty business days of this request, as required by regulation. 22 U.S.C.A. § 552(a)(6)(A). It is CCLF's belief that none of the requested documents are exempt from disclosure under the FOIA. As a reminder, it would be arbitrary to withhold documents which are clearly not covered by the exemptions. Any such arbitrary withholding would be contrary to the agency's best interests in light of the public policy of the Act and the sanctions for punishing agency officials who arbitrarily withhold documents. 5 U.S.C.A. § 552(a)(4)(F).

To the extent the EPA fails to release any of the requested material, please supply a detailed statement of reasons for withholding that information and a synopsis of the records that have not been released. Even if EPA disavows any legal obligation to disclose the requested material, CCLF specifically requests that EPA exercise its discretion in favor of disclosure. If you need to discuss this request, I can be reached at 415-602-6223. Thank you for your consideration of CCLF's request.

Sincerely,



James M. Birkelund